

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01050 250422Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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R 250229Z MAY 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7863
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAPIEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1050

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CH UR

SUBJ: SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS: CHINESE REPLY TO SOVIET POLEMICS

REF: MOSCOW 6714

1. SOVIET EMBOFF (KONDTRATENKO) HAS TOLD USLO OFFICER THAT SOVIETS HERE VIEW ARTICLE IN MAY 17 KUANGMING DAILY AS INDIRECT REPLY TO MAY 14 "ALEKSANDROV" COMMENTARY (REFTEL). THE KUANGMING ARTICLE, AUTHORED BY THE PSEUDONYMOUS CHI SHEN AND ENTITLED "A CLUMSY ANTI-CHINESE PERFORMANCE", DOES NOT REFER DIRECTLY TO THE "ALEKSANDROV" PIECE. IT DOES, HOWEVER, DENOUNCE AN ANTI-CHINESE CAMPAIGN WHICH IT DATES FROM BREZHNEV'S SPEECH AT LAST OCTOBER'S CPSU PLENUM. IT ATTACKS IN PARTICULAR ALLEGED SOVIET SYMPATHY FOR THE OVERTHROWN
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GANG OF FOUR, WHICH IT TERMS A CONTINUATION OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR TRAITORS SUCH AS LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN PIAO.

2. THE ARTICLE REPEATS THE USUAL CHINESE REFUSAL TO COMPROMISE ON DIFFERENCES OF PRINCIPLE BETWEEN SOVIET AND CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTIES. IT THEN STATES THAT ARGUMENT OVER PRINCIPLES SHOULD NOT PREVENT THE

"NORMALIZATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE "BREZHNEV RENEGADE CLIQUE" WISHES TO CONTINUE ITS ANTI-PEKING POLICY OF RELYING ON ARMED FORCE OR OF CARRYING OUT SUBVERSION UNDER THE PRETEXT OF "IMPROVING RELATIONS", CHINA IS QUITE WILLING TO LET THEM "CONTINUE THEIR PERFORMANCE UNTIL THEY MEET WITH EVEN MORE SHAMEFUL DEFEAT."

3. PLACEMENT OF ARTICLE ON PAGE FOUR OF RELATIVELY SMALL CIRCULATION KUANGMING DAILY MAKES IT APPEAR AS SOMETHING LESS THAN FULL-FLEDGED REPLY TO "ALEKSANDROV" ARTICLE. KONDRATENKO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CHINESE HAD GIVEN ARTICLE LOW PROFILE, BUT INSISTED IT REPRESENTED AT LEAST PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO SOVIET PIECE. A MORE OFFICIAL RESPONSE IS PERHAPS REQUIRED, BUT IT WOULD ONLY SET THE SEAL ON THE PRC'S RETURN TO FULL-SCALE POLEMICS.
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